



*****For Immediate Release*****

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WSP's 116th Trooper Basic Training Class graduates 44 new troopers

OLYMPIA, Wash. – The Washington State Patrol (WSP) added 44 newly commissioned troopers to its ranks today during the 116th Trooper Basic Training (TBTC) graduation ceremony held at the Capitol Rotunda.

The graduation marks the well-deserve completion of more than 1,400 hours of rigorous training including classroom and practical exercises at the WSP Academy in Shelton. The training culminated with a coaching trip where the cadets worked alongside a field training officer.

The combined efforts of the 116th TBTC class resulted in 8,371 driver contacts, the removal of 599 impaired drivers our roadways, 1,038 collision investigations, and 2,920 motorist assists during their two-month long coaching trip.

Chief John R. Batiste extended his gratitude to the graduates, as well as to their families for sacrificing time with their loved ones as they became WSP troopers.

“There has never been a more critical time in history, in this state...than now to have you join the ranks of this profession, and in particular, this organization,” Chief Batiste said during the graduation ceremonies. “The people are in need of your services. I am excited for you. I am thrilled for you.”

The new troopers were sworn in by Chief Justice Steven C. Gonzalez, leading to an eruption of applause and cheers from family, friends, and colleagues watching on.

The class will report to their new assignments across the state to begin new duties of keeping Washington State's roadways safe.

“We're suffering an all-time high in terms of fatality collisions that are occurring dating back to 2005,” Chief Batiste said. “You're here to help us curb that trend in the right direction.”

Several members of the class were recognized by WSP Academy Captain Robert W. Sharpe for excelling in aspects of specific skills and abilities, including:

Top Academic Award:

Presented to Trooper Christopher M. Gadd; this award recognizes the outstanding efforts of the cadet who attains the highest grade point average compiled more than 30 exams and quizzes.

Top Driving Award:

Presented to Trooper Reid E. Colburn; this award recognizes the highest level of proficiency with respect to driving skills, techniques, decision making, mindset, and the steady and constant improvement through each phase of drive training.

Top Firearms Award:

Presented to Trooper Kyle M.W. Nein; this award recognizes the highest level of proficiency with all weapons systems, marksmanship scores, skills, and demonstration of sound judgement during practical encounter scenarios.

Top Physical Fitness Award

Presented to Trooper Ernest L. Simpson; this award recognizes the highest level of drive and tenacity in physical fitness testing and training. The recipient of this award consistently performed at the top of the TBTC during physical training.

Top Control Tactics Award

Presented to Trooper Miguel A. Gomez Alfaro; this award recognizes the highest level of proficiency in control tactics techniques, to include self-defense, handcuffing, searching, and the use of force thought process.

Top Collision Investigation Award

Presented to Trooper Christopher M. Gadd; this award recognizes the highest level of proficiency regarding collision investigation, including mathematical computation, scene investigation, information and evidence gathering, report writing, and teamwork.

Top Communications Award

Presented to Trooper Vera O. Yudich; this award recognizes the highest level of efficiency of radio communications knowledge, based upon testing and practical exercises.

Top Overall Cadet Award

Presented to Trooper Joshua J. Kukes; this award recognizes the trooper cadet who demonstrated great courage to overcome obstacles, unwavering dedication to stay focused in reaching their goals and their ability to give 100 percent in every aspect of their training. Trooper Kukes demonstrated the necessary skills, abilities, and judgement to be an excellent trooper, and made the efforts to make continuous improvements.

Core Values Award

Presented to Trooper Kyle P. Schaar; the Core Values Award is determined by the anonymous vote of the members of the 116th TBTC, who chooses the classmate they feel best exemplified the training division's core values of strong leadership, effective partnerships, professional excellence, acting with integrity and accountability, respecting and protecting individual rights, and earning the trust and confidence of the public.

The Core Values Award is sponsored by the WSP Memorial Foundation, and presented in honor of the most recent WSP trooper who gave their life in the line of duty. Today's award was given in honor of Detective Eric T. Gunderson, who died in the line of duty on Sept. 26, 2021. The award was presented to Trooper Schaar by Trooper Gunderson's wife, Kami Gunderson.

Below is a full list of the WSP 116th TBTC graduating class:

	Name	Assignment	Hometown
1	Arnold II, Timothy W.	Monroe	Seattle
2	Barrera-Gonzalez, Jorge	Bellevue	Seattle
3	Broyles, Jeremy T.	Bellevue	Lakewood
4	Bugg, Austin L.	Bremerton	Kingston
5	Burge, Silas J.	Bremerton	Olympia
6	Calderone, Bret M.	Chehalis	Washougal
7	Cesar, Moise J.	Monroe	Shelton
8	Chum, Viely T.	Wenatchee	Westport
9	Colburn, Reid E.	Shelton	Port Orchard
10	Crum, Sarah E.	Bellevue	Tacoma
11	Drake, Nathaniel P.	Port Angeles	Port Angeles
12	Duran Santacruz, Ulices	Marysville	Mount Vernon
13	Flores, Devon R.	Ellensburg	Pasco
14	Gadd, Christopher M.	Marysville	West Richland
15	Gomez Alfaro, Miguel A.	Yakima	Pasco
16	Hildebrand, Anthony J.	Wenatchee	Yelm
17	Jin, Wenxue	Monroe	Lakewood
18	Kinkead, Carter J.	Port Angeles	Camas
19	Knapp, Ryan C.	Marysville	Oak Harbor
20	Kukes, Joshua J.	Ellensburg	Ellensburg
21	LeBlanc, Mark A.	Tacoma	Olympia
22	Lokaal, Jerry O.	Hoquiam	Grapeview
23	Martinez, Marco A.	Bellevue	Puyallup
24	McQueen, Faith R.	Naselle	Vancouver
25	Miller, Blake A.	Ellensburg	Selah
26	Mora, David	Wenatchee	Kennewick
27	Nein, Kyle M.W.	Vancouver	Vancouver
28	Nunez Canizalez, George A.	Bellevue	Auburn
29	O'Rourke, Colin W.	Bremerton	Port Orchard
30	Paulo, Darryl-Jay A.	Marysville	Seattle
31	Purdy Jr., Jason A.	Port Angeles	Olympia
32	Riley, Ty'Quan D.	Bellevue	Lacey
33	Sanchez, Anselmo A.	Wenatchee	Kennewick
34	Schaar, Kyle P.	Hoquiam	McCleary
35	Schneider, Blake K.	Wenatchee	Wenatchee
36	Simpson, Ernest L.	Kelso	Vancouver
37	Southard, Daniel T.	Forks	Spanaway
38	Torres, David	Okanogan	Mattawa
39	Tulloch, Bradley J.	Bellingham	Blaine
40	Tunstall, Jordan A.	Bellevue	Puyallup
41	Yanusevich, Michael J.	Monroe	Bonney Lake
42	Yohanes, Dawit A.	Ellensburg	Kent
43	Yudich, Vera O.	Marysville	Marysville
44	Ziegenfuss, Anthony A.W.	Marysville	Vancouver

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